

Official

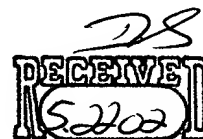
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Yasuo Okutani and Masayuki Yamada
Serial No. : 09/386,052 Group Art Unit: 2641
Filed : August 30, 1999 Examiner: Angela A. Armstrong
For : SPEECH SYNTHESIZING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND
STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR

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5-31-02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington, D.C. 20231



SIR:

This Amendment is being submitted in the Continued Prosecution Application filed on April 26, 2002 which was filed in response to the Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due dated January 28, 2002. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment prior to continued examination is respectfully requested.

Please amend this application as follows:

In The Claims

Please add new claims 25-27.

--25. A speech synthesizing apparatus comprising:
storage means for storing plural items of phoneme data;
retrieval means for retrieving phoneme data, in accordance with given retrieval conditions, from the plural items of phoneme data stored in said storage means;
first penalty assigning means for sorting the phoneme data retrieved by said retrieving means based upon a prescribed attribute value and for assigning a penalty that is based

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01 FC:103 54.00 OP
02 FC:102 252.00 OP